1: Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1940
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Island words published by Cook are transcribed as their Tahitian equivalents, and the differences between the two dialects have been disregarded. Forster's vocabulary is more accurate. Four years before Cook, one of Gonzalez's lieutenants collected 98 words (188, pp. 23-33), most of which can be identified easily. However, the ten first numerals have no equivalent in the modern or any other Polynesian dialect. They probably have a meaning entirely different from that assumed by the recorder of the vocabulary and cannot be considered the remnant of another language (189; 154).

An extensive dictionary (191) was compiled by Father Roussel during the years he spent on Easter Island and published after his death by Father Alazard. Though many errors resulted from lack of the author's revision, his vocabulary in general is accurate and complete. I checked it with several natives and found only a small percentage of mistakes. The most serious criticism to be made of this dictionary is that it includes words and expressions entirely foreign to the native mentality. The original meanings of the words have been distorted and new combinations coined. Extensive linguistic material was obtained by Jaussen when he wrote, under Metoro's dictation, the texts of the tablets. (See 112 and 105.)

A short vocabulary of Easter Island was taken by Geiseler (87, pp. 45-46), probably with the help of Salmon. In this list the length of the vowels and the accentuation are carefully indicated. Thomson's texts and vocabulary (215, pp. 546-552), probably recorded for him by Salmon, form one of the most valuable contributions to the island's linguistics. Unfortunately this material has been disfigured in the copy and printed with so many typographical errors that its value is greatly impaired. With the help of intelligent natives I tried to restore these texts to their original form, but with only partial success. A manuscript by Alexander de Witt, stored in the Bishop Museum library, contains some of Thomson's texts and his vocabulary, copied from the original papers. Here the spellings are more accurate than those in the printed version. Cooke's (54) list of words, received from Salmon, is fairly correct in its spelling.

Mrs. Routledge has probably transcribed native texts but they have not yet been published. Martinez (151) and Bienvenido de Estella (80, pp. 74-132) have both published extensive vocabularies in Chile, but both teem with errors. Some short native songs were included in an article by Knoche (118), but again the phonetics is poor and the understanding of the language deficient. A Chilean officer, Vives Solar (223), has published a textbook in the native language for Easter Island children. He has tried to adapt Chilean elementary school books for this purpose, and his translations do not give a true idea of the language as used by the natives.

The native language as it is spoken today is found in folklore texts recorded by our expedition. The phonetics is extremely simple; there is no

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194 sound in the Easter Island language which does not exist in other Polynesian dialects. Those of southeastern and southern Polynesia are especially similar.

The vowel sounds are the usual Polynesian *a,e,i,o,u*, given "continental" values. They may be either long or short and occasionally the quantity of a vowel may change the meaning of a word. For instance, *ūi* means to ask; *ūi*, to see. The vowels *a,e,o,u* are doubled in a great many common words. This duplication has been clearly perceived by all those who have transcribed Easter Island vocabularies. Even natives, asked to write a text in their own language, use duplicate vowels in some words. Churchill (51, p. 12) considered this a faulty rendition of long vowels. The duplication of the vowel cannot be explained as the dropping of an intermediary consonant, and, so far as I can trust my ear, there is no trace of the glottal stop on Easter Island. If the vowels were long with only an apparent reiteration, I would not have heard two distinct vowels, and surely at least one of the many visitors to this island would have transcribed such sounds as one letter. Geiseler (87, p. 46), whose phonetics is accurate and who gives both the quantity and the accent, writes *tūū* (container). The duplication of the vowel in words where no consonant has been dropped is a peculiarity of the Easter Island dialect shared by no other Polynesian language.

There are nine consonants: *r, ng, n, m, h, v, k, t, p*. The *r* is soft and has developed from an intermediate sound *r-l*. This sound has sometimes been transcribed *l*, and the Easter Islanders in speaking Spanish tend to substitute the *r* for *l*. *Ng* (transcribed by Roussel *g*) is the usual palatal nasal of the Polynesian. *H* is an aspirate sound. It is very strong, and even Spanish people confuse it with the *jota*. It represents the *wh* and *h* of New Zealand and the *f* of Tahiti. The frequent appearance of *k* shows the close relationship of Easter Islanders to Tuamotuans, Maoris, and Cook Islanders. The *v* has been derived from the original Polynesian sound *w-v* and still retains a little of its primitive intermediate position.

192 The modern language of Easter Island is changing; many ancient words
197 have been forgotten, and new words of foreign origin are continually being added. Terms for social activities no longer practiced and names for the plants and animals of the island, in which the present-day natives take no interest, are not remembered. The natives are fully aware of the decadence of their language; only Tepano and a few old women were able to understand the ancient words. Many of the words recorded by Roussel are no longer understood and are said to be entirely out of use. This change in the language is a serious handicap in the translation of traditional songs.

Many Tahitian characteristics have been incorporated in the modern Easter Island language through the influence of missionaries, Tahitian natives living on the island, and the use of Tahitian prayer books. Most of the modern terms for animals and articles of European introduction are taken

6: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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It appears as if among themselves their goods are held in common, and I believe they conceal as much as they can get possession of below the ground, for we never saw afterwards any of the things we gave them. We treated them with every consideration, and gave them whatever they asked for. Many of them pronounce with clearness *Ave Maria: Viva Carlos Tercero, Rey de España.* The men are generally of large stature, very many exceeding 8½ spans [*palmos*] of Castile[1] [in height]; most of them attain 8 spans, and there were two whom out of curiosity we measured, one of 9 spans and 2 inches[2], and the other 9 and 3½ inches[3], all their limbs being of proportionate dimensions. The quality and *timbre* of their voice is adapted to pronounce any language with facility; theirs being very similar to Arabic; although for harshness and resonance it is on a par with that of the Lazarones of Naples.

We never saw their bravery put to the test, but I suspect they are faint-hearted; they possess no arms, and although in some we observed sundry wounds on the body, which we thought to have been inflicted by cutting instruments of iron or steel, we found that they proceeded from stones, which are their only [weapons of] defence and offence, and as most of these are sharp edged[4] they produce the injury referred to.

I made a bow and arrow, duly strung, by way of experiment, and on handing it to one of those with the scars he instantly stuck it on his head as an ornament, and then hung it round his neck with much joy, being totally ignorant of its use and effect.

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[1] The Castilian *palmo* or span is equal to 8½ inches. 8½ *palmos* therefore express 6 feet, less an inch.

[2] 6 ft. 5 ins. [3] 6 ft. 6½ ins.

[4] Obsidian.